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The Timorese Democratic Union

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Mr. President

Distinguished Delegates

Before commencing please allow me to introduce myself as well as the members of my delegation. My name is Joao Viegas Carrascalao. I am a member of the Central Committee of Timorese Democratic Union and have been since its formation in 1974. At the moment I am the most senior representative of Timorese Democratic Union in the free world. With me is Mr. De Oliveira, the Secretary General as well a member since 1974. Milena Pires is the Secretary for Media Relations and Jose Antonio Viegas is the Secretary for Economy and Finance.

Both Mr. De Oliveira and I have actively participated in the political process of Timor since its begining. In 1975, we were part of a number of leaders of Timorese Democratic Union who sought refuge in Indonesia. From that date onwards, we were witnesses to the most despotic acts inflicted upon our people ~~raging~~ ranging from simple physical tortures to the most vagrant violations of basic human and political rights.

We were witnesses to the most inconceivable lies with which Indonesia flooded the international scene to justify its unacceptable action of invasion and its attempts at annexing our territory by force. We were the witnesses to the ridiculous position in which Indonesia has placed itself in its quest to convince the International Community that its unlawful intervention was solicited by the Timorese people.

At that stage, we questioned whether Indonesia was conscious of the gross violations which it commited in its quest through the use of arms to quash our irrefutable right to determine our own destiny. Hypothesising on the case, we find it incredible that Indonesia thought to undermine the reaction of the International Community and of our own people.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, the events which have unfolded is irrefutable proof that Indonesia was mistaken, although we never doubted that coarse lies could ever pass unnoticed before the eyes of the leaders of the free world. Likewise, we never doubted that our people would ever accept, in submission, Indonesia's forced domination. After 15 years of huge military presence and of unaccountable operations, our people's armed resistance has not suffered the least wear. At the end of 15 years of an appalling and hideous oppression of blood and destruction of our spiritual, moral and material values by successive waves of soldiers and civilians, our people's opposition increase as it destinguishes itself from the invader.

We witnessed during the last year, acts of bravery by Timorese who, with their own blood, have left inscribed in the annals of history the justifiability of our struggle. I refer to the demonstration of our student mass, whose generation, has been educated under the Indonesian rule, challenge the wrath of the invader with heroic acts to show the world its discontentment with the present situation of their homeland. The cruel repression exercised by the police force over our youth who wished to inequivably demonstrate to our Holy Father, the unbreakable will of our people during His visit to Timor is still fresh in our minds. We still have fresh memories of scenes detailed by eyewitnesses concerning the horrific blows inflicted on our students by the military and the police forces, during the visit made to Dili by His Exellency, The Ambassador John Monjo of USA.

What more beautiful example of Nationalism can we refer to than this of our youth, who with bare hands, armed solely with the force of reason, faced the odious military, armed with the most sophisticated of armament. What more beautiful example of Nationalism can we refer to if not that of our students, who in the flower of youth and with their future ahead of them, generous as are all youth of the world, have transcended their generosity to the extent of not worrying about spilling their own youthful blood, in order that their homeland may also be free.

Their determination and affirmity are the very symbols of our struggle. We can state without fear of misleading ourselves that in Timor today, the resistance is a reality which, no army can silence, equiped as the Indonesians with their most sophisticated weaponry. The resistance in Timor is invincible because its bases lie in the popular will, englobing all Timorese: it's manifested in the government departments, in the population at large, in the streets and in the most remote points of the territory.

Jakarta is well aware of the situation. Jakarta knows how unfruitful its efforts have been in its attempts at silencing us. Jakarta knows that reason is on our side and thus we hear anecdotal deliveries from Generals in scenes of clear hysterics,

almost of madness, voicing threats of extermination, destruction and genocide of all those who express in any way, signs of Nationalism. Jakarta knows that the resistance is a process of constant evolution reflected in its people which will only terminate when we are given the right of choosing the path of our own destiny thus reinstating our dignity.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, I haven't the slightest doubt that the destiny our people want is INDEPENDENCE.

Indonesia has repeatedly chanted to the four winds that it has done more in a decade than Portugal in four and half centuries. Indonesia declares consecutively that the people of Timor have rejoined by their free will their historic brothers. But what a peculiar family relationship from a people which propounds brotherhood but necessitates the constant military presence of 30,000 soldiers to impose its occupation. A people which propounds brotherhood and proffers a helping hand but which steals, pillages, violates, oppresses, imprisons and murders. A people which promote brotherhood but do not display a minimun of respect for our moral and cultural identity, but which strives to impose upon us a language which we do not speak, customs which we do not know and habits which we do not accept. A people which does not tire of claiming that they have come in aide and who have brought riches beyond our imagination but who in reality, impoverish by signing with another plunderer, a treaty for the exploration of our oil in a designated area known as TIMOR GAP.

Yes, it is true Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates! In 15 years Indonesia has done more, much more than Portugal in 450 years. In 15 years Indonesia made sandalwood an extinct species in Timor. While the Portuguese promoted its regeneration, Indonesia unearth its roots. While the Portuguese co-owned a small percentage of coffee plantations, Indonesia confiscated all and detained the commercial monopoly of that product. While the Portuguese respected Timorese society, its social structures, and its traditional system of government, its customs and traditions, Indonesia seeks to reduce Timorese to the mere role of spectator in its Javanisation process of our home. Finally, I cannot omit that the Portuguese did not kill in its 450 years, the high tally of 200,000 or more, of my fellow countrymen, exterminated by Indonesia in 15 years.

These statistics, Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates, represent more than a third of the entire population in Timor.

I therefore leave it up to you to determine your own attitudes, if 15 million Englishmen were killed, if 60 million Indonesians were exterminated, if 80 million Americans were made to disappear from the face of the world. Would you assume the same passive resignation as have shown in regards to Timor.

If Indonesia has shown itself to be so magnanimous, let it at least do what Portugal has done at the end of 450 years of colonisation and that is to recognise the right to self determination and independence of the people of Timor.

This year we have travelled to the United Nations to speak before you, Mr. President and the Distinguished Delegates of sovereign nations, who have evolved from situations identical to ours, the tragic situation of a martyred people. We are doing so in an era where the impossible of yesterday is a reality of today. We are doing so in an era where Namibia, after long years of armed and diplomatic struggle and who with the support of the International Community has finally won its independence; where the countries of the Eastern Bloc have undergone transformations dictated by the will of its peoples; where the revered Nelson Mandela ceased the severing of the chains of imprisonment which restrained him during decades of extensive tranformation within the African continent, leaving him free to tell the world of the injustice, segregation and the oppression which the minority regime of Pretoria subjects its people. We are doing so in an era where we see the overthrow of dispotic regimes all over the world. In an era where the world unites in its condemnation of the recent invasion and occupation of Kuwait by the Iraquian armed forces. And we do so essentially because we believe that you who honorably display the symbols of your homeland will help us, so that we may also show our flag as a flag of a free and sovereign country.

Thank you.

Joao Viegas Carrascalão
Senior Vice President